(b) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

Increasing the Number of Postmen in Trans-Yamuna Area of Delhi

3345. SHRI O.P. KOHLI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "Yamunapar Mein daak vitran vyavastha charmarai: 35 lakh logon ke liye 250 postman" which appeared in Dainik Jagaran dated 5th March, 1997;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken by Government to increase the number of postmen in trans-Yamuna area; and

(d) the action taken to open more post offices, telegraph offices and telephone exchanges in trans-Yamuna keeping the population in mind?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA): (a) Yes, Sir, There are 257 Postmen and 6 EDDA catering to the delivery needs of this area.

(b) These postmen are working in 10 delivery offices and covering 111 double & 30 single beats in the area.

(c) The strength of establishment is reviewed periodically. Based on the latest such review in 1996-97, a justification of 12 additional posts of Postmen as per departmental norms was established. In order to make good this 4.8% shortage of manpower, efforts are being made to augment the strength of Postmen by redeploying Postmen staff found surplus in other areas.

(d) The Department has recently opened one more Post Office at Jafrabad in trans-Yamuna area on 29.3.97 raising their number to 62 including 1 H.O. in this area. At present there are 4 telegraph offices functioning in the area namely, Krishna Nagar, Shahdara, Guru Teg Bahadur Hospital and Kalyanpuri Telegraph Offices providing Booking and Delivery of Telegrams, STD/ISD, P.C.O., FAX and acceptance of telephone bills facilities.

The strengthing of postal, telegraph and telephone network is a continuous process based on departmental norms keeping in view demand, need and feasibility.

Waiting List of Telephone in Hyderabad

3346. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that waiting list for phones has progressively increased in the areas under Hyderabad Telecom;

(b) if so, the number of persons on waiting list in different categories in Hyderabad Telecom as on date; and

(c) the schedule for clearing this waiting list in Hyderabad Telecom Circle?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA): (a) Yes Sir, Waiting list has increased progressively over the last four years.

(b) As on 31.3.1997, the category wise waiting list is as follows:

OYT	**NIL**
N-OYT	41211

(c) It is planned to clear the existing waiting list by March 1998, subject to availablity of resources.

Upgradation of Post Offices in Tamil Nadu

3347. SHRI N. THALAVAI SUNDARAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria fixed by Government to upgrade post offices;